

B.1
close the channel.

-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-19 are pending.

The Applicants note that claims 18 and 19 have been allowed. In addition, the Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 8, and 10 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim any intervening claim. Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S. C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Orlando* (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,469), in view of *Kles et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,481,662).

In a previous Amendment dated May 12, 2003, the Applicants stated that dependent claim 7 "has been corrected" in response to an informality pointed out by the Examiner. However, the actual amendment to claim 7 was inadvertently not included in the May 12, 2003 Amendment. Thus, Applicants have amended claim 7 herein consistent with the Examiner's suggestion.

Independent claim 17 as now amended includes a PC board having a plurality of mounting openings and a retaining spool for retaining a length of fiber optic cable thereto. The retaining spool includes a body portion defining a channel thereabout and a plurality of spaced legs attached to the body portion. Claim 17 as amended clarifies that the legs be positioned in the mounting openings and that the legs be in contact with a back side of the PC board to secure the retaining spool to the PC board.

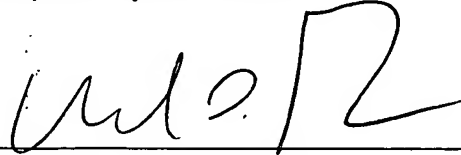
Similarly, independent claim 1 as now amended recites a retaining spool for a PC board for retaining a length of fiber optic cable comprising a body portion. The body portion includes a channel formed about the periphery thereof for receiving the fiber optic cable in an arc having a radius greater than a minimum bend radius of the fiber optic cable. A plurality of legs extend from the body portion, wherein each of the legs is sized and shaped to be received in an opening formed in the PC board and to be in contact with a back side of the PC board for securing the retaining spool to the PC board. The Applicants note that the amendments to claims 1 and 17 were made for the purpose of clarifying the claims and were not intended to be further limiting, or to be in any way restrictive in the range of equivalency that may still apply.

The Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Orlando (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,469), in view of Kles et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,481,662) is respectfully traversed. With regard to independent claim 17, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose a retaining spool having a plurality of attached legs wherein the legs are positioned in the mounting openings and wherein the legs are in contact with a back side of the PC board to secure the retaining spool to a PC board, as required by claim 17. Similarly, with regard to independent claim 1, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose a retaining spool having a body portion and a plurality of legs extending from the body portion, each of the legs sized and shaped to be received in an opening formed in the PC board and to be in contact with a back side of the PC board for securing the retaining spool to the PC board.

Orlando merely discloses latches 30 that do not extend in the mounting openings of a PC board and do not contact a backside of the PC board. Similarly, although *Kles et al.* does disclose a printed circuit board, there still is no teaching or even a suggestion of legs that are shaped and sized to be received in an opening formed in the PC board and to be in contact with a back side of a PC board for securing a retaining spool to the PC board. As such, even if the teachings of *Orlando* and *Kles et al.* were combined, one still would not arrive at the claimed invention. As such, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the case, the Applicants request that the Examiner please contact Applicants' attorney at (312) 673-0360.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MDG', is written over a horizontal line.

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